

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W

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R 292019Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9916

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 2842

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, TD

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: NATURAL GAS-BASED POWER
GENERATING PLANT

REF: STATE 222741, STATE 250388

1. AS NOTED OUR A-14, PHASE I OF PROJECT AWARDED TO
WESTINGHOUSE IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION. CAPACITY OF THIS
PLANT BELIEVED TO BE ADEQUATE FOR PRESENT NEEDS.

2. PHASE II WILL BE ACTIVATED ONLY IF DECISION IS MADE
TO PROCEED WITH STEEL MILL AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS.
WHILE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY IRON AND STEEL COMPANY
THAT CONSTRUCTION ON MILL WILL BEGIN NEXT YEAR, ELECTRICITY
COMMISSION SAYS IT MUST AWAIT FORMAL APPROVAL BEFORE IT CAN
COMMIT ITSELF TO PROVIDE ELECTRICITY NEEDED. THEY ARE
ESTIMATING ELECTRICITY REQUIREMENTS OF MILL AT 150 MEGAWATTS,
VICE 300 REPORTED A-14, PRESUMABLY REFLECTING REDUCTION IN
PROPOSED CAPACITY OF MILL FROM 1.2 MILLION TO 450,000 TONS.

3. SOURCE OF FINANCING WILL BE DETERMINED IF AND WHEN
DECISION IS MADE TO PROCEED WITH PROJECT.

4. T&TEC WILL USE ENGINEERING CONSULTANT FAMILIAR WITH
SPECIAL NEEDS OF STEEL INDUSTRY. WHILE IT HAS NOT
SELECTED ONE, IT IS UNDER CONTINUING CONVERSATION WITH
WESTINGHOUSE AND GENERAL ELECTRIC ON ITS CAPITAL REQUIRE-
MENTS, AND THESE FIRMS WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE AN EDGE OVER
OUTSIDERS WHEN DECISION IS MADE.

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5. WE SUGGEST ANY FIRMS INQUIRING BE INFORMED OF ABOVE.
IF INTERESTED, THEY SHOULD PROVIDE T-TEC WITH FULL
PARTICULARS ON THEIR ABILITY TO PROVIDE SERVICES REQUIRED.
TENDERS ARE MADE BY INVITATION, AND IF FIRM APPEARS TO
MEET T&TEC'S NEEDS, THEY WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY BE
INVITED TO TENDER WHEN THE OCCASION ARISES.
FAY

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